subject-wise break-up of the complaints received or the action taken by them against derelict officials is kept in the Ministry.

(c) Wide publicity is given annually in the newspapers regarding existence of the public grievances redress machinery in the Ministries/Departments/offices of the Central Government and the Directors of Public Grievances alongwith their address, telephene numbers etc. Various Ministries/Departments also publicies the existence of the Public Grievance Redress Machinery in their offices.

Misuse of secret service fund by CBI

216. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI is spending a major part of the Secret Service Fund in entertaining foreign dignitaries and hosting parties, as appeared in the Hindustan Times of 2nd April, 1998;

(b) whether there are any broad guidelines under which this Secret Service Fund is to be spent with a view to gathering information useful to CBI; and

(c) what is the percentage of this Secret Service Fund vis-a-vis the Annual budget of the CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No, Sir. The amount so spent is a small fraction of the expense from the Secret Service Fund of the CBI.

(b) Yes, Sir. There are guidelines to operate the Fund, with a view to gathering information useful to CBI and for related purposes.

Year	Percentage of SSF to total Budget of CBI
1996	0.78%
1997-98	0.73%

Extradition of Ottavio Quattrocci

217. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a judicial enquiry is to be set-up to investigate the reasons for the failure of the Central Bureau of investigation to arrest and interrogate Ottavio Quattrocci in the period between July 12, 1993, the date on which the juidgement of the Swiss Superior Court on the Bofors case was known and July 30, 1993, the date on which Quattrocci left India;

(b) whether the services of Interpol have been solicited to have Quattrocci extradited to India; and

(c) whether a review of the standing rules and procedures concerning defence purchases is contemplated in the light of the irregularties revealed in the Bofors contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The assistance of Inerpol has been sought for the arrest and detention of *Mr. Quattrocci.*

(c) Since the Bofors deal, defence procurement procedure has undergone many changes. At present, procurement is carried out in accordance with the Defence Ministry's revised procedure of 1992. The existing procurement instructions debar the involvement of agents. A clause to this effect is included in all the contracts concluded with foreign suppliers.

Letters from MPs pending disposal

21. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of letters written by Members of Parliament are pending for disposal in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances

and pensions, especially in the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare;

(b) whether any such letter relates to non-payment of dues that can be paid to the widow of a government servant who dies in harness;

(c) whether any instructions have been issued to pay dues in such cases to the widow; and

(d) if not, by when the relevant instructions/clarifications would be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) 121 (One hundred and twenty one) letters were received from the Members of Parliament during the period from 1.4.97 to 30.4.98 of which 42 letters are pending as on 30.4.98.

(b) No Sir. However 7 (seven) letters relate to payment of family pension to the widows of employees of Public Sector Undertakings and autonomous bodies have been received and referred to the concerned Ministries for necessary action.

(c) and (d) The matter has been taken up with the concerned Ministry and it is for the concerned Ministry to take necessary action as per the existing rules.

Rules regarding dismissal from service and withholding retirement benefits

219. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether dismissal from service and withholding of retirement benefits for unauthorised absence from duty constitute two punishments fro one wrong in the light of the Supreme Couurt's ruling in Mahanga Singh case of 1992;

(b) if so, the rules in this regard; and

(c) the remedies available to the aggrieved person?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Dismissal from service is a penalty prescribed under the disciplinary rules. Withholding retirement benefits on dismissal is merely a consequential result thereof as the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 provide that dismissal or removal of a Government servant from a service or post entails forfeiture of his past service.

Raising of retirement age of Central Government Employees

220. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering raising retirement age of Central government employees to 60 years from 58 years at present;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons for the proposed change and the present status of the deliberations;

(c) whether State Governments have been consulted on the issue; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) and (b) The age of retirement for civilian Central Government employees has been raised by two years excap for those already retiring at 60 years. Similarly, the age of retirement in the Armed Forces and the Central Para Military Forces is also being raised by two years.

(c) and (d) The age of retirement for State Government employees is the concern of the respective State Governments. Each State Government has to